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Bangalore Mirror

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2022 data ranked Bengaluru second in country for accident fatalities with 772 deaths in 3,822 incidents

BRAKING BAD

T-junctions most dangerous zones with 512 accidents

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Bengaluru has earned a dubious distinction: it ranks second in the country for accident fatalities.

The city's ranking rose from third to second position, with 654 people killed in 2021, increasing to 772 the following year.

Currently, Bengaluru trails only behind Delhi, the national capital, in terms of accident fatalities. Bengaluru continues to hold the fourth position in the country for recording a total of 3,822 accidents in 2022, compared to 3,213 in 2021 (last year's ranking was fifth). The city now stands sixth in the country for the total number of injuries dropping from its fifth position last year. In 2022, 3,189 individuals were injured, compared to 2,820 in 2021.

The data is accessed from the Annual Report

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

PAGE 3: BELIEVE THIS? TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS DIP

IAN/UNSPLASH

> "A total of 4,61,312 road accidents... reported in states and union territories during 2022... claimed 1,68,491 lives
> — Official

Leaping fury

Boxed in leopard shot dead

PAGE 7

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3 THINGS TO DO

01 Forest fest

Celebrate our mother nature through an ensemble of art installations, photographs from forests captured by young interns, music, movies, artefacts, interactive workshops, and more, as Azim Premji University is set to present 'Forest of Life-A journey through India's Forests'. This thirteen-day trilingual (English, Kannada, and Hindi) festival will offer you an enriching experience. **Where: Azim Premji University, Survey No 66, Burugunte Village, Bikkanahalli Main Road, Sarjapura**
When: Friday, November 3; 12 noon

02 Iconic art

The National Gallery of Modern Art is presenting the in-house curated exhibition, 'Haripura Panels—Nandalal Bose (1882–1966)'. The exhibition showcases 77 iconic works from BGMA's permanent collection, along with a copy of the manuscript of the Constitution of India. It will be inaugurated by Thaawarchand Gehlot, the Governor of Karnataka. **Where: National Gallery of Modern Art**
When: November 3; 3:30 pm onwards

03 Turn the page

Here's some good news for bibliophiles, as 'The Ultimate Books and Stationery Fair' has started in the city. The fair is presented by Arc Stationaries in collaboration with Book Tale and Meehh.com. The event promises to be a haven for book enthusiasts, stationary aficionados, and anyone seeking top-notch printing solutions.
Where: Kalyani Kala Mandira, Doraisanipalya, 151/1, Bannerghatta Main Rd, opp. IIM, Panduranga Nagar;
When: until November 5; 10 am–10 pm

Talking point: Matters of the heart post-covid

City docs stress there are no clear guidelines on when to start exercising after covid; say patients whose lungs were affected during the infection can take it slow and easy

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Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya recently said that those suffering from severe covid infection should not do hard work or strenuous exercises for some time to avoid heart attacks. These points have stirred debate. Reacting to this, Dr Manjunath PH, Consultant Interventional Pulmonologist at Gleneagles Hospitals, Kengeri, told Bangalore Mirror that there are no clear guidelines on when to start exercising post-covid.

"Few studies indicate the risk of thrombosis in covid-infected patients. Depending on the severity of the disease, the resumption of routine activities is recommended. Patients with mild disease can restart exercise activities after two weeks, while those with severe diseases can start depending on improvement and under the doctor's observation. There are no specific dietary guidelines for these patients. Those with severe infection and a prolonged hospital stay can have a balanced diet rich in protein to aid in the recovery of any muscle loss," he said.

Other doctors said that patients who have successfully recovered from covid, particularly those who experienced severe cases resulting in lingering lung issues or covid-related heart problems, should be cautious when engaging in physical activities.

Dr Vikranth Veeranna (Consultant Cardiologist, Sparsh Hospital) said that it is essential to note that a straightforward recovery from covid should not significantly elevate one's risk during exercise.

> **"The statement on how long covid-19 affect the cardiac condition of patients is not very clear** – Dr Pradeep Kumar D, Senior Consultant, Cardiology, Manial Hospital, Yeshwanthpur

"Many individuals contracted covid during the Omicron variant, but not all of them need to be overly cautious when exercising. Nevertheless, as a standard safety measure, it is strongly recommended to gradually reintroduce exercise into their routine while being supervised. Patients who endured severe disease, suffered from covid affecting their lungs, or endured covid-related heart attacks should exercise caution and take special care," he said.

According to experts, it is incorrect to attribute the surge in heart-related incidents solely to covid

Furthermore, Dr Pradeep Kumar D, Senior Consultant, Cardiology, Manipal Hospital Yeshwanthpur, said, "The statement on how long covid-19 will affect the cardiac condition of patients is not very clear. Initially, during the onset of covid, we saw many patients with heart attacks, pulmonary embolisms, and sometimes cardiomyopathy or myocarditis, where the heart muscles become inflamed and weakened."

However, Dr CN Manjunath, Director of Jayadeva Institute of Cardiology, stated, "In the last 10 years, we have observed an increase in heart attack cases, with a notable rise of 22%. It is incorrect to attribute the surge in heart-related incidents solely to covid. Over the past two years, people have received covid vaccines, and it is also inaccurate to claim that vaccines are contributing to an increase in heart attacks. In fact, 85 to 90% of individuals have been infected by covid, and there is no scientific proof to suggest that they are more prone to heart attacks."

Meanwhile, Manjunath reported, "In the last three months, 8,500 BMTC employees have undergone a cardiac health check-up camp. The age group ranged from 45 to 60 years. We identified that 5% of BMTC employees have heart-related issues, 40% have high blood pressure."

Fellowship takes public policy to classrooms

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The Participatory Democracy Fellowship Programme (PDFP), an initiative by the Bangalore Political Action Committee (B.PAC), aims to bridge the gap between classroom learning and on-ground experience for public policy students. Currently, the programme is being carried out along with the Mount Carmel College students of the Department of Public Policy, with this year's cohort focusing on last-mile connectivity and bus stop-related public infrastructure to understand the mobility aspect of Shivaji Nagar constituency.

BPAC has introduced two distinct public policy curricula in academic institutions. One of these curricula focuses on equipping students with a range of quantitative skills to empower them as influential policy analysts, while the other emphasises a multidisciplinary approach with a strong focus on practical implementation to nurture changemakers. However, the success of the latter curriculum, which requires strategic collaborations, a departure from traditional teaching methods, problem contextualisation, and a commitment to embracing diverse perspectives, has varied.

Harshitha Venkatesh, Programme Lead, B.Engaged (Participatory Democracy programme), said that the initiative started in 2019, and in the first cohort, four BBMP wards were covered with outcomes covering ward surveys, social media reports, and waste management of places of worship, followed by a study of Shivaji Nagar constituency.

"In 2020, the second cohort, we covered government school surveys, public toilets, anganwadi surveys, and police station visits to understand the women's safety-related aspects covered in the B.Safe Constituency report. In the third cohort, we are currently looking at the last-mile connectivity and bus stop-related public infrastructure surveys to help understand the mobility aspect of Shivaji Nagar constituency," she said.

The programme with the MCC students is a 100-hour programme, wherein the students get 75 marks for it. From the findings, the surveys will be submitted to the elected representatives, and a presentation or discussion will be carried out. At the Shivaji Nagar constituency, MLA Rizwan Arshad is willing to take suggestions and bring in changes that could have a positive impact on the development of the constituency.

Traffic discipline: B'luru gets in line or numbers lie?

Just seven cases of zig-zag driving in a month in 2023 so far; not everyone is convinced, experts point out lack of enforcement by police

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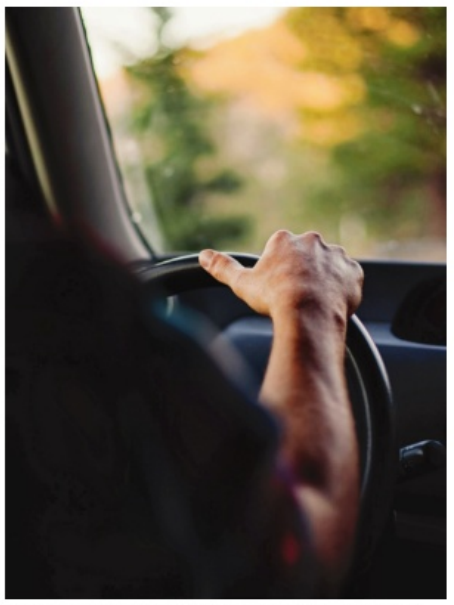

In 2021 and 2022, the police recorded 867 and 872 cases, respectively

Bengaluru traffic police might have booked more than 60 lakh cases of violations in 2023 so far; however, a close look at their data shows that the violations remain limited to parking and helmet violations.

The data shows that while traffic police were registering around 72 cases every month in 2022 regarding zig-zag driving, the number in 2023 has come down to only seven cases per month.

In the 12 months of 2021 and 2022, the police recorded 867 and 872 cases, respectively, for zig-zag driving, while in the nine months of 2023, they registered just 63 cases.

The lack of enforcement is just not visible for zig-zag driving, but cases like carrying lengthy material on the road, which used to see more than 20,000 cases in previous years, have come down to a mere 1,385 cases in 2023 so far.

One might argue that this can mean that violations on the road have gone down. However, commuters told BM that earlier, people used to not follow lane discipline, and it's still the same.

"Nothing has changed in the past few years. One thing is that you can't spot traffic police on the road anymore," said Sarthak, a commuter.

Many pointed out that violations like zig-zag driving, lane indiscipline, using high beams, etc. are difficult to monitor unless there are policemen on the roads.

"Of late, many violations are being monitored through cameras and digitab. It seems like there are fewer personnel on the roads following the backlash for towing away vehicles last year. This gives me the impression that policemen are being deployed only if there is a way to catch and fine the violators," said another commuter.

Furthermore, Sanjeev Dyamannanavar, a transport expert, said that it is the lack of enforcement by the police that is to blame. "Unlike places like Mumbai, where the police and the people tend to be focused on lane discipline, it is not happening in Bengaluru. Traffic police have a very selective approach to violations. Violations like overtaking from the left are not being caught. We have addressed this issue multiple times with the people and the police. The focus on lane discipline has to be improved, but it falls on deaf ears," he explained.

Sanjeev added that the police themselves should make sure that they are following the rules so that the common man can see. "If people see that BMTC buses are parked on the road or the police are parking their vehicles in the wrong place, people stop taking the rules seriously," he added.

No space to walk at this shopping complex

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BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath visited Jayanagar Shopping Complex

If the brazen encroachment of footpaths is any indication, it seems Jayanagar Shopping Complex is a favourite destination for all sorts of encroachers. It is estimated that around 300 people have encroached on the footpaths and corridors of the Jayanagar Shopping Complex.

Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath, along with BBMP authorities and Jayanagar MLA CK Ramamurthy, visited the shopping complex on Tuesday. The Chief Commissioner found many shop owners occupying passages of the shopping complex, causing a lot of inconvenience to the customers coming there for shopping.

"Many people and shop owners have occupied passages inside the complex. There are street vendors occupying footpaths and vacant spaces around the shopping complex. There is a parking mafia at the shopping complex. I have already raised this issue during the meeting," said MLA Ramamurthy.

Alarmed by the brazen encroachment of footpaths and illegal shops, the BBMP Chief Commissioner ordered the officials to clear the encroachments and identify those doing business illegally at the shopping complex.

The Chief Commissioner directed BBMP Marshals to ensure no encroachments inside and outside of the shopping complex. He visited the fish market at the shopping complex and ordered the electrical engineer to provide lighting facilities and take measures to prevent people from occupying the fish market illegally. He visited the place where Blocks 2, 3, and 4 are supposed to be constructed and directed the engineer to have a meeting with the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) and submit a report on the outcome of the meeting.

Meanwhile, MLA CK Ramamurthy said the construction of the 2, 3, and 4th Blocks at the shopping complexes would be constructed by the BBMP. "If the BBMP fails to clear the encroachments and commence the construction of 2, 3, and 4th Blocks, I will raise the issue in the State Assembly," he said. It may be recalled that the Karnataka High Court on October 26 issued a notice to the BBMP Chief Commissioner for failing to follow a 2020 order of the Court to remove the illegal shops in the upper basement of the Jayanagar Shopping Complex within three years. It is said that RR Hiremath, an advocate, filed the petition on the violation of building laws by the BBMP by allowing shops to operate from the upper basement of the rebuilt Block 1 of the shopping complex meant for parking vehicles.

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Volvo out, electric in: BMTC's green transition

BMTC plans to replace Vajra, Vayu Vajra services with electric buses

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BMTC's venture into Volvo buses is proving less profitable than expected, leading to ongoing financial losses. Hence, the corporation has decided to retire its Volvo buses and transition to electric buses

The Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) is taking a significant step towards sustainability by phasing out its Vajra and Vayu Vajra services and replacing them with electric buses. To facilitate this transition, the corporation has issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the procurement of 320 electric buses under the Gross Cost Contract (GCC) model.

BMTC's venture into Volvo buses, including the Vajra service, had proved less profitable than expected, leading to ongoing financial losses. Now, the corporation has decided to retire its Volvo buses and transition to electric buses under the GCC model. The tender issued by BMTC seeks a service provider for the procurement, operation, and maintenance of 320 low-floor, 400mm floor-height city-type AC electric buses."These buses being procured on the GCC model will replace all the Vajra and Vayu Vajra services. 130 Vayu Vajras are running in the city," said a senior BMTC official.

The buses are being procured under the scheme for Special assistance to States for capital investment 2023-24. The centre had approved Rs 56,415 crore to 16 States, of which Karnataka was allocated Rs 3,647 crore. Funds meant for meeting the State share of Jal Jeevan Mission and Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana have been provided to accelerate the projects in health, education, irrigation, water supply, power, roads, bridges and railways sectors. The special assistance is being provided to the State Governments as a 50-year interest-free loan up to an overall sum of Rs 1.3 lakh crore during the financial year 2023-24.

As per the contract, the bidders will have to run an assured 225 km per day, at 350 days per year, for a contract period of 12 years. In addition to the procurement of buses, the service provider will also have to add an Intelligent Transport Management System, 4 Passenger Display Boards, 1 amplifier, 1 SCU / OBU, 1 DDU, a CCTV system comprising of 3 In-bus Cameras, and one external reverse Camera with cover, MDVR for storage up to 15 days.

> **"These buses being procured on the GCC model will replace all the Vayu Vajra services. 130 Vayu Vajras are running in the city** – a senior BMTC official

A total of four depots, Depot-7 (SubhashNagar), Depot-13 (Katriguppe), Depot-18 (Whitefield) and Depot-25 (HSR layout) are identified for the deployment of these buses, and a panic button system.

BMTC plans to disburse subsidies to the service provider in a phased manner: 20 per cent after issuing the supply order and signing the Master Service Agreement, 40 per cent after bus delivery, and the remaining 40 per cent after six months of successful commercial operation.

While the fare will be collected through cash, smart cards, QR codes, etc, as tickets and passes, BMTC plans on introducing an integrated ticketing system in future.

Trash no more: Skywalk near Esteem mall gets makeover

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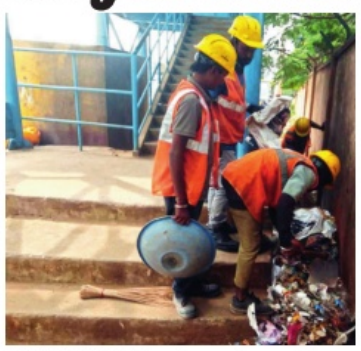
It's a big relief for hundreds of individuals who use the skywalk near Esteem Mall on Kempegowda International Airport Road, also known as Bellary Road. The area surrounding the skywalk used to be littered with garbage, and unfortunately, some people resorted to urinating there. However, thanks to the efforts of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) officials who took the initiative to engage workers in cleaning and maintaining the surroundings, the skywalk and its vicinity are now clean and tidy. Bangalore Mirror published a story, 'Trash walking', on October 31, narrating how commuters face problems due to a heap of garbage near the ramps of the skywalk on both sides of the road. When informed, NHAI engineer and BBMP Solid Waste Management engineer have assured on October 30 to remove garbage. "I noticed the skywalk clean and neat on Tuesday evening. I want the authorities concerned to maintain the skywalk properly in future," said Selwyn Mascarenhas, a resident.



NHAI's initiative transforms the Esteem Mall skywalk area from a trash heap to a pristine path

Bangalore Mirror
Skywalk built after tragic death of girl in accident while she was crossing the road, now strewn with garbage
TRASH WALKING
Skywalk constructed by NHAI 6 years ago

BM Story on October 31 about commuters hindered by garbage pile near the skywalk

Chitresh Srivatsav, a PhD scholar at Jain University and a resident of Akshay Nagar, has said the authorities should take measures to keep the skywalk clean. "It is a prime place, and the government has spent taxpayer's money. As a common frustrated public, I am celebrating this event – clearing garbage around the skywalk," said Chitresh Srivatsav.

Demanding the NHAI officials to engage workers to sweep the skywalk and its surroundings, Naveen Krishna, a resident, has said many people use the bus stop to board long-distance buses at night. "Some people supply tea and coffee at night and throw empty paper cups near the skywalk. It will be better if the NHAI officials appoint a security guard for this skywalk," said Naveen Krishna.

BANGALORE MIRROR IMPACT

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Flyover debris
Koramangala

Debris accumulation at the under-construction 100-feet road flyover releases unpleasant odours and fosters mosquito breeding, aggravated by rainy conditions.

Traffic gridlock
Kalidasa Circle

The recurring traffic congestion at Kalidasa Circle is causing unnecessary delays and frustration for drivers.

Risky road
MS Palya

Sambhram College Road (MS Palya) leading to Hesaraghatta Road, experiences daily challenges with waterlogging, posing a danger to two-wheeler commuters.

Screen scare: Cyberloafing's silent surge

Study by NIMHANS sheds light on increasing non-academic internet use among youngsters

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The surge in internet accessibility among children and adolescents has led to a significant increase in non-academic internet use, as highlighted in a literature review by professors at the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuroscience (NIMHANS). Published in the Journal of the Indian Association for Child and Adolescent Mental Health, this paper sheds light on the growing prevalence of "Cyberloafing" among students.

With the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdowns limiting outdoor activities, the accessibility to gadgets has surged, resulting in Cyberloafing becoming an emerging problem. The paper, authored by Dr Manoj Kumar Sharma and Dr George Felix from the Department of Clinical Psychology at the SHUT Clinic (Service for Healthy Use of Technology), NIMHANS, emphasises that Cyberloafing includes activities such as internet browsing, online gaming, updating personal blogs, responding to personal emails, engaging in social media, or accessing adult websites while attending online classes or doing academic work.

Dr Sharma explained, "Students perceived Cyberloafing as a fun, exciting, and enjoyable activity; these positive expectancies serve as a motivation to persist with cyberloafing behaviour. Cyberloafing has been found to have both positive and negative impacts. Students perceived it as a fun, exciting activity. On the other hand, the negative factors included accessibility to technology, excessive use of technology, boredom, and academic-related distress, the role of extraversion, neuroticism and escapism."

According to the research paper, Cyberloafing may offer benefits such as access to new information and knowledge, along with fresh perspectives. The use of computers in classroom instruction could potentially have a positive impact. However, its negative impact may reduce students' active participation in class leading to disengaged behaviour that negatively affects academics. To prevent the negative effects of Cyberloafing, Dr Sharma recommended several strategies. First, individuals should become aware of any functional impairment in their daily schedule. Secondly, if such impairment exists, activities should be planned with reminders to ensure timely task completion. Thirdly, individuals should develop strategies for self-control through relaxation or meditation exercises.

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Rajyotsava spirit

Various school students participated in a march past during the celebrations of 'Karnataka Rajyotsava' at Sree Kanteerava outdoor Stadium in Bengaluru

71-year-old newspaper vendor honoured with Rajyotsava Award

In a remarkable and unprecedented recognition of unwavering dedication, Javarappa, a 71-year-old newspaper vendor from Mysuru, received the prestigious Rajyotsava Award for his extraordinary service in delivering newspapers to the iconic Mysuru Palace and the Wadiyars. This distinction marks the first time a newspaper vendor has received this esteemed honour.

Javarappa, a long-time resident of KR Mohalla, began his illustrious career in newspaper and magazine distribution at the tender age of 15, and he has remained committed to this profession for over five decades. His selection for the Rajyotsava Award is a testament to his enduring commitment and vital role in providing newspapers to the community.

Despite his age, Javarappa remains incredibly active and maintains robust health. This exceptional recognition not only celebrates Javarappa's tireless service but also serves as a testament to the often-unsung heroes who play pivotal roles in our daily lives.

In addition to Javarappa's honour, BN Shrirama Pustaka Prakashana from Mysuru was also selected for the award in the organisation's category. This dual recognition underscores the rich tapestry of contributions made by individuals and institutions in the vibrant city of Mysuru. —BMB

Banashankari's thirsty wait

Completion of Cauvery Stage V project hinges on pending pipeline connection, causing concerns

Iffath Fathima@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

BWSSB's ongoing Cauvery Stage V project promises to provide water to over 110 villages

The much-anticipated completion of the Bangalore Water Supply Sewerage Board's (BWSSB) ongoing Cauvery Stage V project has been eagerly anticipated by citizens as it promises to provide water to over 110 villages, including the residents of Banashankari 6th stage. They alleged that although the ground-level reservoir (GLR) work is finished and filled, a 60-meter pipeline connection remains pending for over a year and a half. This critical connection is needed to link the GLR to the main pipeline, which is essential for the project's completion.

For the residents of Banashankari 6 stage, the Cauvery Stage V project is of utmost importance, as they primarily rely on bore well water or tankers for their daily water needs. Those without access to bore wells depend entirely on tankers, and with a large population, it's a daily struggle.

While there has been constant delay for the completion of the project, which was supposed to be completed in March this year and is said to be completed only by December, with the water getting commissioned only next year, the residents, however, added that this issue of completing the connection of main pipeline should be carried out immediately so that once the water testing is done in places it can even be checked at Banashankari rather than leaving it incomplete.

Srivatsa V K, a resident of Banashankari 6 stage, said, "For testing purposes to check on leakages, the water should be released from the reservoir to the houses. But 60 m of pipeline connecting is missing from the reservoir to the main pipeline, and it has come through the Turahalli forest land. But there is a problem: forest officials are not allowing for the pipeline work to be completed, and this is causing the delay. For over one and a half years, the work has been completed, but the problem has persisted since then. Here, we are only depending on tankers or bore wells. However, the commissioning of the water is expected next year. However, before that, they have to carry out the testing, but with its incomplete stage, it cannot be done."

For the residents of Banshankari 6th stage, the Cauvery Stage V project is of utmost importance, as they primarily rely on bore well water or tankers for their daily water needs

This apart, the residents pointed out that they have already taken the BWSSB connections and are concerned that the residents would not get water after the commissioning is done.

Srivatsa said, "We have more than 3000-4000 houses, and it is crucial for the project to be completed. While the GLR was allowed to be constructed near the forest area, even the pipeline should be allowed to help many people."

Kiran Kumar, former president of Sobha Forest View Apartment, said, "It is really frustrating as we don't know why the permission is not given. Most of them have been eagerly waiting for water for all these years. We were putting a lot of pressure on BWSSB to complete the project, and now, because of 60 metres, it stands incomplete. Right now, there is a lot of tanker mafia in the city, and the tanker rates are skyrocketing; they charge around Rs 600 for 6,000 litres of water, while for the Cauvery water, the price is significantly less. This will help people to save up."

BM tried reaching out to the BWSSB and forest officials, but they were unresponsive for a comment.

Cauvery crisis: MLA calls for action

Rajajinagar MLA S Suresh Kumar has written to Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, urging him to provide clear information on the quantity of drinking water available in reservoirs for Bengaluru's residents until next June.

"The Cauvery Water Management Authority, during the meeting held on Monday, directed Karnataka to release 2,600 cusecs of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu for 15 days. The water level at various reservoirs is only 50 per cent due to the rainfall deficit. The Cauvery Water Management Authority's order will hurt people residing in Bengaluru," said Suresh Kumar in the letter.

Suresh Kumar has emphasised the need for clarification to the elected representatives of Bengaluru on the water available in the reservoirs and the quantity of water required to supply drinking water to Bengaluru till June. "As measures taken in the past, the Deputy Commissioners of respective districts have to take over water tankers and distribute such water tankers to all districts through the Road Transport Department. It is necessary to take over borewells dug up for commercial purposes to supply water to the residents of Bengaluru till June 2024," Suresh Kumar said.

Suggesting the government to repair the defunct borewells, the MLA has said the authorities have to take measures to plug water leakage. "All the valves should be systematically operated to avoid interruptions in water supply. The authorities have to ensure coordination between Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited (KPTCL) and Bengaluru Electricity Supply Company (BESCOM) to ensure sufficient power supply to the BWSSB water pump houses," the MLA said.

He has also suggested that the government create awareness among the residents on water shortage soon. — Y Maheswara Reddy

Cornered, angry big cat shot at (4th) sight

All options exhausted, leopard had to be shot, say officials; wildlife experts wonder if situation could have been handled differently

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

After an intense three-day search operation by officials from Karnataka Forest Department (KFD), the leopard that was spotted near Kudlu Gate in South Bengaluru was shot dead on Wednesday.

According to senior officials, the decision to shoot the leopard was taken after all other options had been exhausted. Officials also said that special permission was sought from the Chief Wildlife Warden before shooting the animal.

Officials say the leopard kept on attacking people during the duration of the operation starting Wednesday morning. Once it was seen around 9 am, it attacked the veterinarian trying to tranquilise it. KFD claims the leopard aimed for the doctor's neck but the vet escaped with minor injuries. It then attacked another official from the Leopard Task Force (LTF). The official was called from Mysuru for this operation. The third attack was on a representative of a non-government organisation that was supporting the department in the operation. Around 2.30 pm, it again came out and charged. "It is very difficult to capture a big cat, especially in a city with high population density and no open spaces. Around 2.30 pm, when it charged again for the fourth time, one of our officials opened fire and the animal was shot dead. We had permission from the Chief Wildlife Warden to shoot the animal if the need arises," said Kumar Pushkar, APCCF (Wildlife), KFD.

KFD carried out the operation at the spot where the leopard had taken shelter for the last two days. It had taken refuge in an abandoned building with thick bushes on the campus and a godown nearby. Officials had spotted pugmarks and scats in the area over the last three days, but the leopard was finally spotted on Wednesday morning.

> **"It is difficult to capture a big cat, in a city with high population and no open spaces. When it charged for the fourth time, our official opened fire**
>
> –Kumar Pushkar, APCCF

Officials told BM the animal had become very aggressive because of so many people around and was not getting an escape route. "We also did not want it to escape as it could have been dangerous to the people around us. Even an earth mover was brought in to dart the animal from up close but we did not succeed," added Pushkar. After the incident, the body was taken to Bannerghatta Biological Park and a post-mortem was conducted.

"It was an old leopard as it had already lost its canine teeth, which are very important for hunting. It should be around ten years old. Its stomach was empty indicating it had not eaten in the last two to three days. There were talks of it venturing out and picking up stray dogs, but the post-mortem report has proved that was not the case," said Pushkar. Officials also confirmed that this was the only leopard in the area.

Experts unhappy

Wildlife conservationists say the department could have handled the situation differently. Citing a video recording of the last few minutes of operation that has surfaced, experts say an experienced team could have led to a better result.

Forest officials carried out the operation at the spot where the leopard had been hiding out for the last two days; a large crowd gathered around complicating the mission further leading to the shoot-out

PICS: KAUSHIK JN

"The video clearly shows that the leopard did not charge before it was shot dead, as claimed by the officials. It was rather running towards the net that was put in place by the department to catch the animal. The moment it surfaced from the thick bush and ran towards the net, it was shot. The video also shows that one of the officials tranquilised the animal even after it was gunned down. There was a mini celebration that took place after the big cat was killed, which is disturbing. Officials were seen congratulating each other. There was no need to shoot it and tranquilisers could have done the job," said Joseph Hoover, former State Board for Wildlife member and founder of the United Conservation Movement and Charitable Trust.

Experts say it is high time the government reconstitute task forces, whether elephant task force or leopard task force, across the department. Conservationists say an expert with the right background for the job would have reacted differently in the scenario.

"It is time to have a better rescue team at every centre. The LTF has been created loosely, similar to the elephant task forces. These teams have been formed by pulling in people randomly. There is a clear surge in man-animal conflict cases and this operation is a good case in point to ensure there is an experienced team to capture tigers, leopards, bears, and other such animals in conflict situations. LTFs and ETFs should be reconstituted and right people should be brought in. It is not the question of if the leopard could have been saved or not. It is about how one reacts in the given situation that is important," said Hoover.

However, KFD officials disagreed.

"Our team was well-experienced in handling this operation. The chief conservator of forest along with the deputy chief conservator was present on the spot during the last two days of the operation. Had it been a village, we would not have killed the animal as it would have got an escape route. Here, we were dealing with a densely populated area," said Pushkar.

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Bengaluru second in deaths by accidents in India

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

on 'Road Accidents in India-2022' published by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. This report is based on the data/information received from police departments of states on a calendar year basis in standardised formats as provided by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) under the Asia Pacific Road Accident Data (APRAD) base project.

Across the country, T-junctions are identified as the most dangerous zones where the highest number of fatalities occur. In Bengaluru, 512 accidents occurred at T-junctions. Nationally, 32% of accidents took place at T-junctions, 17% at four-arm junctions, and 16% at staggered junctions.

Looking at state-level statistics, Karnataka had a total share of 7.1% of accidents reported in the country in 2018, which has since reduced slightly to 6.8% in 2022. The total road length in India is 63.31 lakh km (as of March 31, 2019), comprising 1.32 lakh km of National Highways, 1.80 lakh km of State Highways, and 60.59 lakh km of Other Roads (including District Roads, Rural Roads, Urban Roads, and Project Roads).

In percentage terms, National Highways share 2.1%, State Highways 2.8%, and other roads 95% of the total road length in the country. Although the percentage share of these road categories in the total road length is highly uneven, the distribution of the number of road accidents, fatalities, and injuries in 2022 among these road categories was much skewed.

Across the country, the total number of accidents on National Highways increased by 17.99%, on State Highways by 10.69%, and on Other Roads by 8.23% in 2022. Similarly, the total number of fatalities on National Highways increased by 8.98%, on State Highways by 8.03%, and on Other Roads by 10.73% in 2022.

Across the country, the total number of accidents on National Highways increased by 17.99%, on State Highways by 10.69%, and on Other Roads by 8.23% in 2022

There has been an increase in the number of accidents, fatalities, and injuries on these three categories of roads in 2022 compared to 2021. The top 10 states are selected based on the number of fatalities reported on National Highways in 2022.

Uttar Pradesh retained its top position in road accident fatalities on the national level in 2022 with 13.9% of fatalities, followed by Tamil Nadu (9.8%), Maharashtra (8.1%), Karnataka (6.82%), and Rajasthan (6.81%). The top ten states together accounted for more than 72% of accident fatalities on National Highways in 2022.

A senior official of the Ministry said, "As per the report, a total of 4,61,312 road accidents have been reported by States and Union Territories (UTs) during the calendar year 2022, which claimed 1,68,491 lives and caused injuries to 4,43,366 persons. This marks an increase of 11.9% in accidents, 9.4% in fatalities, and 15.3% in injuries compared to the previous year.

The report underscores the urgency of adopting a comprehensive approach to address the contributing factors to these accidents, including speeding, reckless driving, drunken driving, and non-compliance with traffic regulations.

It is crucial that we strengthen enforcement mechanisms, enhance driver education and training programs, and invest in improving the condition of roads and vehicles. We are working towards various aspects such as road user behaviour, road infrastructure, vehicle standards, enforcement of traffic regulations, and the role of technology in accident prevention.

Road accidents are multi-causal in nature, requiring a multi-pronged approach to mitigate the problems through concerted efforts of all agencies at both central government and state government levels.

The Ministry, along with various other related organizations as well as stakeholders has formulated a multi-pronged strategy to address the issue of road safety focusing on all 4Es including Education, Engineering (both roads and vehicles), Enforcement and Emergency Care."

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I Harsha Vardhana Varma Kopperla S/o Satyanarayana Raju Kopperla R/o B-327, Trillium Apt, Anekal, 80 Feet lake Rd, Off hosa road ,Chikka - nagamangala, Bengaluru-560099 have changed my name to Harshavardhan Varma Kopperla for all purposes.

I, Narendra Laxman Pakhare R/o Flat No.C3, Second Floor, Ganapathyaraja, 14th Main, R.B.I. Layout, J.P.Nagar 7th Phase, Bangalore - 560078 have changed my minor daughter's name from Yukthi Pakhare to Yukthi Narendra Pakhare for all purposes.

I, Narendra Laxman Pakhare R/o Flat No.C3, 2nd Floor, Ganapathyaraja Tejas Apartme -nt 14th Main, R.B.I Layout, J.P.Nagar 7th Phase, B'lore - 560078 have changed my minor son's name from Mithansh Pakhare to Mithansh Narendra Pakhare for all purposes.

I Rajalakshmi R W/O, Badri Narayanan R R/o 516, 1 C Main, Koramangala 8th Block, Bengaluru have changed my name to Rajalakshmi Badri . Rajalakshmi R and Rajalakshmi Badri are one and the same.

I Bandhakavi Sitaramaanjaneyulu S/o B V Ramayya R/o D23, Bel Colony, Jalahalli, Bangalore-560013 Have Changed My Name To Ram Moudgalya Bandhakavi For All Future Purposes.

I, SUDHA DIVAKAR RAI aged about 73 Years D/o Balakrishna Rai R/at No.6, 2nd Cross, Sanjay Nagar, Basappa Layout, Bangalore North, R.M.V Extension II Stage Bangalore- 560094 have changed my name to SAVANOOR SUDHA DIVAKARRAI vide affidavit dated:31/10/2023 Before Notary S.R.Paramashivaiah Bangalore.

I Ritu Dayalu D/O, Nancy Patrick Maxwell R/o 246, Jal Vayu Towers, Ngef Layout, Temple Street, Sadanand Nagar, Bengaluru- 560038 have changed my name to Rita Dayalu.

I, Ajay Kumar Kurup, R/o Sobha Dream Acres Flat No 2033 Wing 2, Panathur Main Road, Balagere Varthur, Bengaluru-560087 have changed my name to Ajay Kumar

I, Fouzia Sultana W/O, Anees Pasha R/o Mutton Market Road Rajpete Hosakote Bangalore 562114 have changed my name to Fouziya Sulthana for all purposes.

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FRIENDSHIP AHOY

Key for dealing with the loneliness epidemic

The benefits of friendship go far beyond having someone to confide in or spend time with – it can also protect you from physical and mental health problems. For example, people with good friends recover more quickly from illnesses and surgeries. They report higher well-being and feel like they live up to their full potential. Additionally, people with good friends report being less lonely across many life stages, including adolescence, becoming a parent and old age.

In fact, friendships are so powerful that the social pain of rejection activates the same neural pathways that physical pain does.

Behavioral scientists like me have tended to focus our research about friendships on their benefits. How to cultivate these powerful relationships hasn't been as deeply researched yet. Understanding more about what people look for in a friend and how to make and sustain good friendships could help fight the loneliness epidemic.

Traditional conceptions of friendship

Previous generations of behavioral scientists traditionally focused on the notion that people form friendships with those who are similar, familiar and in close proximity to them.

When you look at all the friendships you've had over your life, these three factors probably make intuitive sense. You're more likely to have things in common with your friends than not. You feel an increased sense of familiarity with friends the longer you know them – what psychologists call the mere exposure effect. And your friends are more likely to live or work near you.

Researchers in this field have also typically divided friendship preferences based on gender. The dichotomy suggests that women prefer one-on-one, emotionally close and face-to-face friendships, while men prefer multi-person, task-oriented and side-by-side friendships, with the focus on a shared activity.

Again, when looking at your own friendships, these findings may seem intuitive. Women on average prefer to engage in activities that allow for self-disclosure and sharing secrets, such as spending time one-on-one talking about their lives. Men, on the other hand, tend to prefer to engage in activities that are group-based and have a clearly defined outcome, such as playing sports together. Findings such as these show that gender and preferences on how to connect are important in friendships.

But these explanations of friendship do not address the most important aspect of making friends – choosing the individual people you want to turn into your pals. Friendship decisions are not random. There are many people who are similar, familiar, in close proximity and have similar preferences as you. Yet few of these individuals end up being your friends.

So, in a world full of possibilities, how do people pick those who will become their friends?

New ways to think about friendship

Within the last decade, researchers have begun investigating the roots of friendship preferences beyond the classic descriptions.

For example, social scientists see there are strong preferences for friends to be loyal, trustworthy and warm. Additionally, researchers find there are preferences for friends who help you solve specific kinds of problems and are generous and caring with you instead of others. These preferences help people navigate making friends, given limited reserves of time and effort. In short, they help you find the best possible friends you can in a world full of friendship possibilities.

Social scientists have also learned that, while there are some important gender differences in what people want in friends, it is not accurate to say that men and women want one kind of friendship over another. In fact, when we take a more holistic approach and consider broader categorizations of emotional closeness and tasks, the gender differences in these preferences are reduced. And of course, people don't exclusively pick between face-to-face and side-by-side friendships. Instead, it is more likely that they focus on what they want from their friends and let these needs guide how friendships form.

Ultimately it's your individual preferences that guide you toward the people who will best meet your particular social needs. With a little luck, you'll find buddies who can lend a hand when you need one and support you in reaching your goals. In all, your preferences are the key to finding friends who can buffer against feeling lonely and provide you with the social, emotional and health benefits of friendship.

When you're looking for friends

It's hard to provide clear guidelines for improving friendships because the research about friendship preferences is still developing. But there are some clear points for consideration:

Determine what you value in friends. Do you want one-on-one, emotionally close friendships or multi-person, task-oriented friendships? Depending on your preference, different kinds of activities will be helpful for finding others who fit the bill and cultivating these friendships.

Know that it will take time to make close friendships. Research suggests that it takes 30 hours of interaction to make a casual friend, 140 hours to make a good friend and 300 hours to make a best friend.

Consider what you bring to the table. Everyone has unique strengths they bring to their friendships. Research shows that, when you're able to demonstrate that you have characteristics people want in friends, you're able to make more satisfying friendships.

Understand friendships to understand loneliness

Considering the nuances of friendship preferences will be extremely important in reducing not only loneliness, but other related public health crises. For example, loneliness is associated with likelihood of attempting suicide. Recent surveys have found that men are suffering big declines in the number of close friends they have, as well as experiencing higher rates of suicide compared to women.

The U.S. Surgeon General's recent recommendations for fighting the loneliness epidemic focus on public policies and infrastructure. But fostering community spaces for connection – such as parks, libraries and playgrounds – prioritises the preferences of those who favor the one-on-one, emotionally close and face-to-face connections more often preferred by women. These places are less beneficial for people with more typically masculine preferences, as there is no guarantee that these spaces will foster side-by-side, task-oriented connections unless areas for sports and other team-based activities are also included.

To counter this inequity, researchers and public health officials first need to understand what makes friendships satisfying. Then they can ensure that recommendations to curb loneliness address all of the pathways that people use to cultivate high-quality friendships.

Jessica D Ayers, Boise State University, The Conversation

All you need to know about...

Mobiles & sperm count

Radiation effect
Frequent use of mobile phones, which emit electromagnetic radiation, can lower sperm concentration and total sperm count, finds a study.

No connection with low sperm motility
However, no association was found between mobile phone use and low sperm motility and morphology, revealed the study published in the journal Fertility & Sterility.

Association studied
While various environmental and lifestyle factors have been proposed to explain the decline in semen quality observed over the last fifty years, the role of mobile phones has yet to be demonstrated.
To understand, a team from the University of Geneva (UNIGE) in Switzerland led a cross-sectional study based on data from 2,886 Swiss men aged 18 to 22, recruited between 2005 and 2018.
The data revealed an association between frequent use and lower sperm concentration.

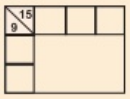
Usage rate
The median sperm concentration was significantly higher in the group of men who did not use their phone more than once a week (56.5 million/mL) compared with men who used their phone more than 20 times a day (44.5 million/mL). This difference corresponds to a 21 per cent decrease in sperm concentration for frequent users (-20 times/day) compared to rare users (<1 time-), the researchers said.

Numbers count
According to the values established by the World Health Organization (WHO), a man will most probably take more than one year to conceive a child if sperm concentration is below 15 million per millilitre; percentage chance of pregnancy will dip if the sperm concentration is below 40 million per millilitre.

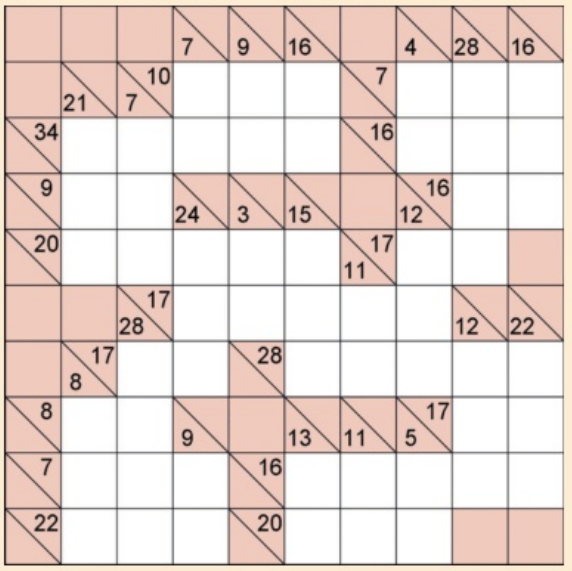
IANS

Kakuro

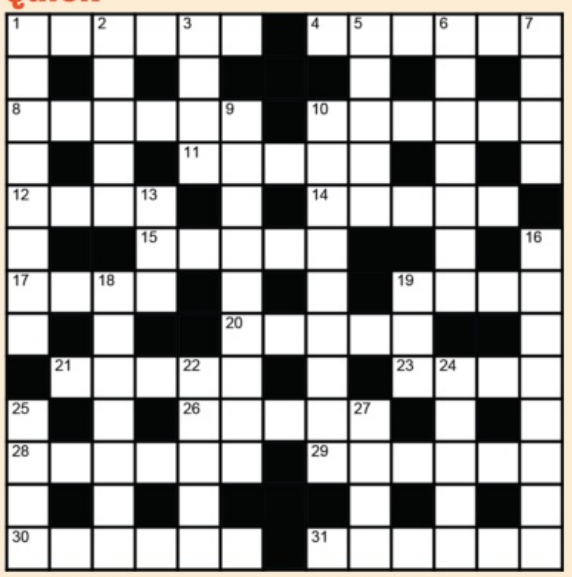
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Is suitable or becomes (6)
4 Shove (6)
8 In the land of Nod (6)
10 Entitlements (6)
11 Sculler (5)
12 Prescribed amount (4)
14 Recumbent (5)
15 Way taken or path followed? (5)
17 In excited eagerness (4)
19 Flight prefix (4)
20 Heap together (5)
21 Take up as one's own (5)
23 Ship's bottom (4)
26 Drive away (5)
28 Seven-legged crustacean (6)
29 Pious or holy (6)
30 Messy or slovenly (6)
31 Protein catalyst of a specific biochemic reaction (6)

DOWN

1 Governor of Karnataka from 2009 to 2014 (8)
2 Drops or comes down (5)
3 Rank (4)
5 Hirsute (5)
6 Put out of one's mind (7)
7 Elephant's tooth (4)
9 Inhabited or lived in (9)
10 Consigned to a lower division? (9)
13 Unit of energy (3)
16 Gambling game (8)
18 Elderly man who is disliked (informal) (3,4)
19 Inquire of (3)
22 Snobbish (5)
24 Black timber (5)
25 In ___ of : instead? (4)
27 Slender (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: T EQUALS P

W TVSTBV KDVV US PJSSCV NGBB WBNWZC PJSSCV TVWPV.

Linemaro

I will stop loving you when an apple grows from a mango tree on the 30th of February

Mindchow

You can't expect to hit the jackpot if you don't put a few nickels in the machine

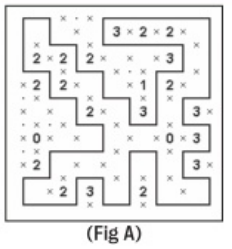
Joke of the day

I will put up a map of the world, and put pins into all places I've seen. But first, I should travel to the top two corners of the map so it won't fall down

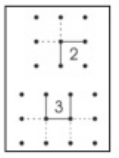
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

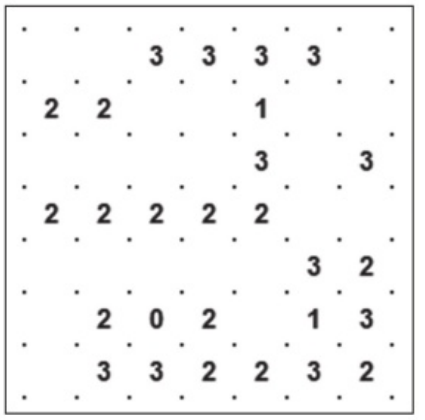


(Fig B) Not Allowed

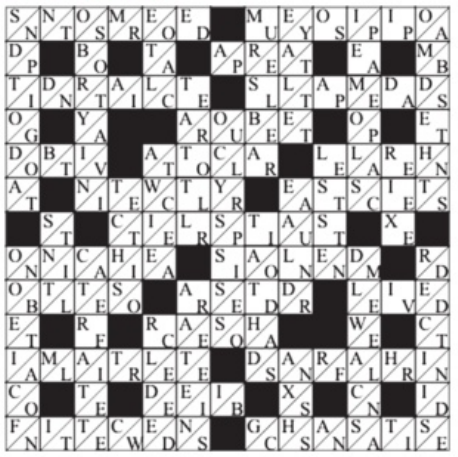
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5
6			H	
7				
8				
9				

ACROSS

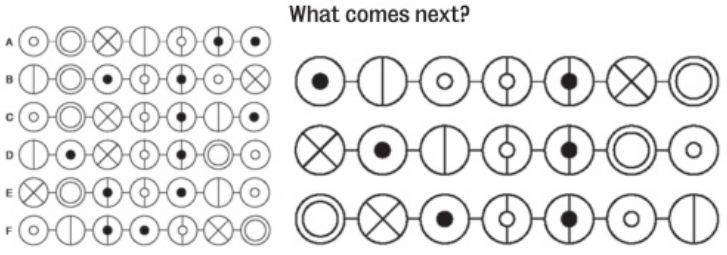
1 At Lbs; 6 Ah pal; 7 Parer; 8 A nine; 9 Scold

DOWN

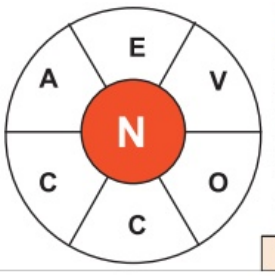
1 Carib; 2 No all; 3 Papal; 4 D hens; 5 Tears

Mensapuzzle

What comes next?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

09 Average; **10** Good; **12** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

4		2	6		1			9
		1			4			
		8		9				1
	6				7	2	5	
	4						1	
	8	3	5				7	
7				4		3		
			7			1		
3			8		2	7		5

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 2

1 1 4 6

Medium = 56

4 5 5 7

Hard = 47

6 7 8 7

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

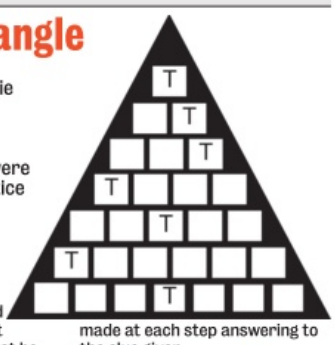
Differences: 1. Singer's arm is moved. 2. Back of man's seat is missing. 3. Stage curtain is different. 4. Mouth is different. 5. Woman's hair is longer. 6. Balcony is different.

Riddler

Two boys weighing 50 pounds each and their older brother weighing 100 pounds wish to cross a river. Their boat will only hold 100 pounds. How can they all cross the river in the boat?

Alpha triangle

1 Tonne, abbr.
2 Stephen King movie
3 Convene
4 Neckwear
5 Ceremonies
6 Those who persevere
7 More out of practice



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

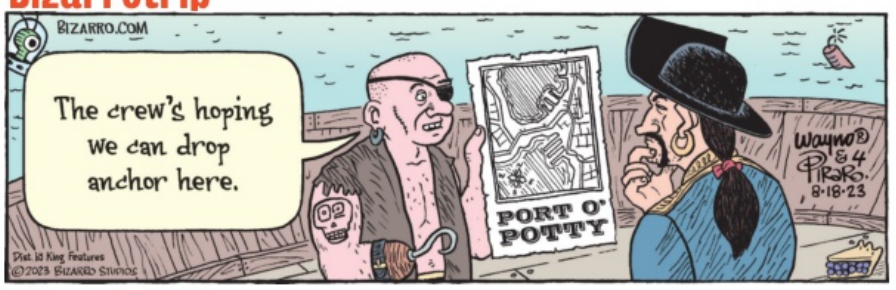
DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

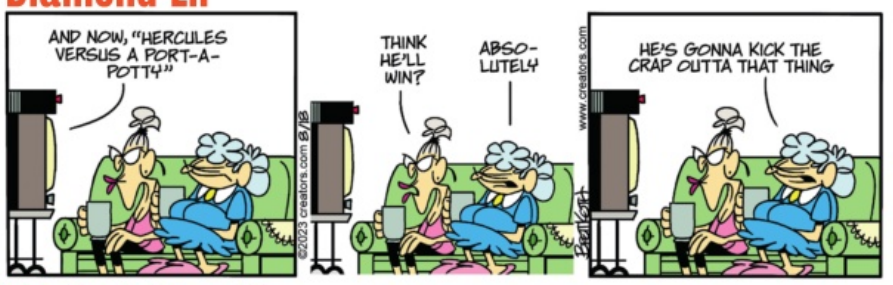
Redeye by Mel Casson

DID YOU ALWAYS HAVE A DESIRE TO BECOME A MEDICINE MAN ?
NO... I JUST HAD A DESIRE TO MAKE A LOT OF MONEY
8-4
Yates/Casson
UNFORTUNATELY, I FLUNKED THE BAR EXAM

Bizarrotrip



Diamond Lil



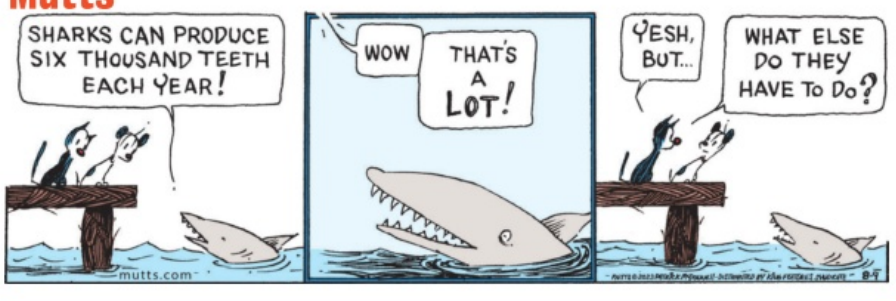
Hart of the city

SO WHY DO YOU ACT LIKE A BLOCKHEAD AROUND ME? ARE YOU JEALOUS OR SOMETHING?
JEALOUS?! ME?! YOU'RE THE ONE ALWAYS ONE-UPPING ME AND LIKE...
BEING YOURSELF...
AND STUFF...
OKAY, LISTEN. YOU ARE COOL AND NERDY, AND I AM JUST WORRIED THAT YOU'RE NERDIER THAN ME.
NERD STUFF IS MY THING.
MY MOM WAS RIGHT ABOUT YOU.
YOU JUST SEE ME AS COMPETITION!
MY MOM WAS RIGHT, TOO. MAYBE WE SHOULD BE FRIENDS.
MOMS...
@COMICS.COM/JEARTOTHECITY

Crankshaft

WHY ARE YOU GRINNING, DAD?
WHAT'S THE MATTER? CAN'T I GRIN IF I WANT TO?
SURE... IT'S JUST THAT IT'S A LITTLE DISCONCERTING COMING FROM YOU.
8-16
BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books

Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may feel a bit dull, possibly due to hidden fears that are making you feel scared. You might not be in a situation where you can trust anyone. It is advised to meditate and chant some prayers, which could help you overcome this hypothetical situation. With the blessings of your elders in the late evening, you may emerge from this messy situation.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you can expect a short business trip and potentially some rewards for your success in your field. Your respect in your social circle may increase, and you may hear good news from your siblings. Job seekers aiming for management positions may find success, and singles are likely to get engaged.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today is a good day. You are blessed by Jupiter, and your wisdom can help you navigate difficult situations. You may also assist those in need and offer your opinion to your family or friends, which could enhance your prestige among them. You may experience some differences of opinion with your spouse, which may affect your domestic life.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may experience mood swings and feel a bit down. Your health may not be at its best, impacting your daily routine. It's advisable to avoid rash driving and adventurous tours. You might also spend on unnecessary things, which could affect your financial well-being.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may be contemplating a change of location, but it is advised to postpone any decisions related to migration. It's also recommended to avoid business investments. By late evening, the situation may come under control, with the help of valuable advice from an elder.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may find happiness and spread positivity around you. Domestic life may be harmonious, and you may enjoy romantic moments with your spouse. Your family may support you in making important decisions in your professional life. You can expect new ventures or partnerships in your business or work.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, the positive influence of the moon may bring you happiness. Patience will be your key asset in all endeavours, and your job performance may earn you rewards. Health-related issues in your family may be resolved. Job seekers are likely to find suitable positions in their respective fields, and lovebirds may enjoy their time together.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may encounter mixed situations around you. It's advised not to have overly high expectations of others, as it could lead to disappointment. Self-exploration and self-analysis may lead to increased self-confidence and better preparation to face challenges.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you might feel detached from your responsibilities and overspend on unnecessary items, which could bring negativity into your home or office. It's recommended to stay vigilant about your opponents and rivals to avoid falling victim to any conspiracies. Be sure to read documents carefully before signing them.

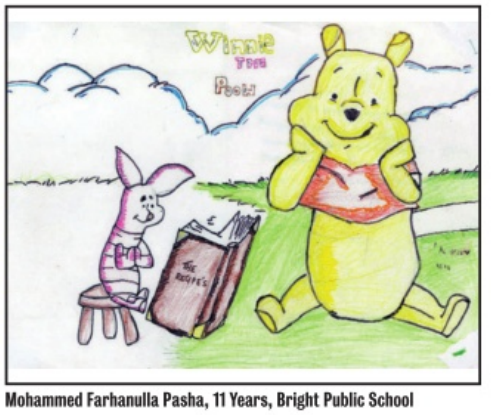
Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, blessings from elders may bring you happiness, and your investments may yield profits, turning losses into gains. Your savings may boost your bank balance, and you may plan for your children's future. You could also enjoy some delicious food at home. Any problems related to your throat, teeth, ears, or nose may be resolved.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you are blessed by your elders, and your patience is greatly improved. Your focus on your work is excellent, and your parents' health is improving. You are likely to spend time with elders and may meet influential people who can assist you professionally. Enjoying romantic moments can enhance harmony in your domestic life.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may feel spiritual and inclined to help those in need. You might plan to donate to charity or a religious place. Your good deeds may lead to success in challenging projects, and you may sense a divine presence around you, guiding you in unpredictable situations. You may also be drawn to the occult, and students are likely to enjoy in-depth studying.

KIDZONE

Girija Shree B N, 11 Years, Indiranagar Cambridge School



Mohammed Farhanulla Pasha, 11 Years, Bright Public School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
15+ (1/2) • (4/8) = acne, aeon, cane,
15+ (1/2) • (1/2) = canoe, CONCAVE,
15+ (1/4) = cone, coven, nova,
15+ 0.25 = 15.25 ocean, once, oven,
vane

BULL'S EYE

STRIKE OUT

QUICK

MENSA PUZZLE
C: at each stage the third circle moves to the end and the sixth circle moves to the beginning

RIDDLER
Two 50lb boys cross, one comes back. 100lb boy crosses, other 50lb boy returns Both 50lb boys cross.

SUDOKU

4	5	2	6	7	1	8	3	9
9	3	1	2	8	4	5	6	7
6	7	8	3	9	5	4	2	1
1	6	9	4	3	7	2	5	8
5	4	7	9	2	8	6	1	3
2	8	3	5	1	6	9	7	4
7	2	5	1	4	9	3	8	6
8	9	6	7	5	3	1	4	2
3	1	4	8	6	2	7	9	5

ALPHA TRIANGLE
T, It, Sit, Tile,
Rites, Triers,
Rustler.

GO FIGURE
Easy
6 – 4 – 1 + 1 = 2
Medium
5 + 7 x 5 – 4 = 56
Hard
7 x 7 + 6 – 8 = 47

FAST FIVE

B	L	A	S	T
A	L	P	H	A
R	A	P	E	R
I	N	A	N	E
C	O	L	D	S

QUOTE UNCODE
A people free to choose will always choose peace.

LOOP

KAKURO

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Fighter filming done
Director Siddharth Anand on Wednesday announced that the filming on his upcoming directorial "Fighter", starring Hrithik Roshan and Deepika Padukone, is complete

BangaloreMirror | 12
Thursday, November 2, 2023
mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com
@BangaloreMirror
Entertainment Industry Promotion

Fiery chemistry

Why the camera loves 'it couple' Vijay, Tamannaah

Saturday night saw who's who of B-Town making an appearance at the grand opening of a shopping centre in Mumbai. Love birds Vijay Varma and Tamannaah Bhatia turned this event into an opportunity to show off their fiery chemistry. The duo was snapped arriving together, twinning in white. While Tamannaah stunned in an ivory gown with sheer detailing, while Vijay looked dapper in a black and white striped suit.

Dapper duo pose cheerfully for paparazzi and seem comfortable with PDA

The couple cheerfully posed for the paparazzi and at one point Vijay was seen pulling his lady love towards himself as the paps continued to click.

Vijay and Tamannaah raised eyebrows after an alleged kissing video of theirs from New Year 2023 had gone viral. After months of speculation, Vijay and Tamannaah had confirmed their romance this year. The couple was seen romancing for the first time in the anthology Lust Stories 2, in Sujoy Ghosh's narrative.

In an exclusive chat with ETimes, Vijay had revealed one habit of Tamannaah that annoys him the most and stated, "She obsessively thinks about workouts. She plans her day according to workouts. She will even sleep less to go to the gym! I tell her you need to complete your sleep for a better lifestyle, but no. She will sleep for four hours and hit the gym." In her defence Tamannaah had stated that since she eats a lot, she cannot afford to miss her workouts. And when Tamannaah was asked to name Vijay's most annoying habit, the actress said that she didn't have any but revealed that she is working on a few ideas to annoy her man. "The thing is I want to annoy him and I'm fleshing out a few ideas. He's too zen..."

—ETimes

Mira's pick

Oscar-winning Mexican director Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu, known for films such as "Birdman" and "The Revenant", was keen to work with Irrfan Khan, says director Mira Nair who had suggested the actor's name to the filmmaker.

According to Nair, Inarritu was looking for an Indian actor for one of his projects and happened to ask her for a recommendation.

"I remember well when I had visited him (Irrfan) he was really ailing but still fighting... My other friend, the great filmmaker Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu had said, 'I'm really looking for this Indian everyman'. I said, 'There are many but there's one great one'. And it was going to be Irrfan... But such is life," the director said.

Irrfan died in April 2020 following a battle with a rare form of cancer. Nair, who worked with the actor in "Salaam Bombay!", "The Namesake", and her short in the anthology film, "New York I Love You", recalled meeting Irrfan for the first time at the National School of Drama (NSD) in Delhi.

—PTI

All the horror: Selena takes break from social media

Singer Selena Gomez is taking a break from social media. The 'Single Soon' singer, 31, revealed on her Instagram Story that she has had to step back from her socials, "because my heart breaks to see all the horror, hate, violence and terror that's going on in the world," reported People.

"People being tortured and killed or any act of hate towards any one group is horrific," Gomez added before going on to say that "ALL people" need to be protected, "especially children," and that "violence needs to be stopped for good." "I'm sorry if my words will never be enough for everyone or a hashtag," she continued. "I just can't stand by innocent people getting hurt. That's what makes me sick. I wish I could change the world. But a post won't."

The star signed off her message "Love, Selena"

Gomez said that having a sister has made her more aware of the bad aspects of life in a follow-up post that included a black and white photo of her younger sister, Gracie Elliott Teefey. "Having a sister everyday has made me sick," she wrote. "I would do anything for children and innocent lives."

—ANI

Fushion is fashion

Actor Shraddha Kapoor surely knows how to win hearts not only through her performances but with witty and interesting captions, and, her latest post is proof.

Taking to Instagram, Shraddha shared a series of pictures of a fusion saree look.

At an event in Mumbai, Shraddha wore a traditional orange-red toned saree and added a fusion twist by donning a blazer to complete the look.

For glam, the actor opted for minimal makeup with red lipstick. Her wavy hair definitely accentuated her ethnic look.

Shraddha not only amazed everyone at the event with her look but with her voice too.

At the event, she sang the version of Asha Bhosle's classic song 'Aao Huzoor Tumko.'

Apart from her, celebs like Salman Khan, Deepika Padukone, Alia Bhatt, Katrina Kaif, Kareena Kapoor Khan, Malaika Arora, and Khushi Kapoor among others also graced the event in style.

Meanwhile, on the work front, Shraddha will be seen reuniting with Rajkumar Rao in 'Stree 2'. The film recently went on floors in Chanderi, Madhya Pradesh.Makers of the upcoming horror comedy film officially announced their film at a grand event in Mumbai in April where the team enacted a skit to announce the release date of the horror comedy sequel.

—IANS

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

She is a hero

Kannada movie Beli Hoo is currently being shot in and around Ramanagar. Sebastian David, who helmed the film Jothi alias Kothiraj, is handling the megaphone for this movie based on a woman undertaker of Ramanagar.

"The movie is based on the achievements of V Asha, a woman undertaker. She has ensured decent burial for around 5,000 persons since 2016 in and around Ramanagar," said Sebastian.

According to the director, Asha's achievements are great as she is the first woman in the state to work as undertaker. "Asha has been doing this job without any publicity. She has written a book on the incidents that took place in the last seven years. I have written the screenplay for the film," the director said.

Swetha Srinivas is playing the lead.

Power of mace

Many movies have been made on Lord Hanuman in many languages, but this could be the very first to be made on Lord Hanuman's weapon, Gada (mace). Yathish Kumar V, who has been associated with Sandalwood for more than three decades, is out with Jai Gada Kesari that highlights the power of the weapon.

"I have been working as editor, sound engineer, and colorist for Kannada movies for more than 30 years. I have also worked as associate director for some movies. Jai Gada Kesari is my first movie as a director," said Yathish Kumar.

Kumar said that a majority of the cast are newcomers, who have done a good job. "I did not organise a workshop to train the newcomers, but I am very happy with their acting skills," he said.

The movie was shot in Bengaluru, Chitradurga, Hospet, and Sindhanur for 70 days. "Post-production work is in progress. We are planning to apply for the certificate from the Central Board of Film Certification shortly," he said.

Eshwar Nayak, who plays the lead, is a co-producer for this movie bankrolled by Basavaraj Bajanthri under the Basavaraj Bjanthri Movie Makers banner.